that an estimate had been called for from the Chief Engineer, but that nothing further was done and stated that the difficulties of the ryots would not be over until the scheme was completed.

He then suggested that manure should be issued to the ryots on the credit system.

Loans under the Agricultural Improvement Loans Regulation were not being issued for the sinking of wells to the extent desired. Interest on such loans below Rs. 300 should be reduced.

The following improvements to the means of communication in the taluk were also suggested :—

1. A bridge across the river at Puthur and the improvement of the road leading to Mulakarachanpara mettu.

2. A road from Puliyara to the new Railway Station at Bhagavathipuram.

3. Improvement of the road from Puliyara to the Arienkavu Railway tunnel.

4. A road from Munnuvaikal (cusba) to Karkudy.

5. A bridge across the river at Aykudi connecting it with Varadayyan Gramom.

He also proposed the formation of an Irrigation Board for the Quilon Division, and urged that the *marakals* and *padis* used in the Shencotta taluk should be examined and stamped by the taluk authorities before they were issued for use, in order to prevent the use of fraudulent measures. Lastly, he protested against the ryots being forced to sell their paddy at reduced rates when the prices of all other necessaries had gone high.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar and the Executive Engineer, Quilon Division, have been ordered to conduct a joint inspection of the routes from Puliyara to the Bhagavathipuram Railway Station. The other points are noted.

167. Hardships experienced by the poor on account of the levy of duty on head-loads of firewood.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar B. A. (Member, Shencotta taluk) represented that the levy of a duty on head-loads of fire-wood removed from the forests was a great hardship to the poor people. Removal of firewood free of duty was permitted till recently and the duty was a recent impost. The poor women who were making a living had to undergo much difficulty and inconvenience for getting the pass, for which each had to pay 9 pies, and which they had to show to the authorities in the forest. The average monthly receipts amounted only to about Rs. 20 and the system prevailed only in the Shencotta taluk. He, therefore, suggested its abolition without delay.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be looked into.

168. Certain suggestions regarding the Education of Mahomedans.

Mr. Gnaniar Sayyid Taha Sahib (Member, Nominated) said that the Mahomedan community was very backward in education and requested Government to make every effort to improve their condition. The first thing to be done in the matter was the appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector who was well acquainted with Arabic. He was aware that the appointment had been sanctioned and prayed that a suitable person might soon be nominated.

Dewan's reply.— The matter is under consideration.

169. Need for the re-constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly based on statutory enactment.

Mr. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, Ettumanur taluk) first conveyed the grateful acknowledgments of the people of his taluk to the Dewan for the ready and favorable reply he gave to the representation about the school-building.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The Member then said that there was a general feeling that the constitution of the Assembly required certain material changes. The following were the changes proposed :—

1. The Assembly should be based on an enactment instead of on an executive order, so that the institution may be firmly established.

2. The Members should be given the power of discussing the budget.

3. At present there was no chance for the Members to know what the reports of the Heads of Departments were on the representations made at the Assembly. Whenever reports were received on the representations of the Members, they should be forwarded to the Members concerned and, before final orders were passed, their further views should be taken.

4. Whenever memoranda of subjects were submitted to Government, they should be sent to the officer concerned and a report obtained, so that Government might be ready to answer the representations of Members at the Assembly itself, except important general questions which might take some time for solution.

5. The power at present given to the Members of the Assembly to return a Member to the Legislative Council should be based on a statute.

6. There was not equal and even representation of the agricultural and trading interests from the different taluks, some of which had 2 Members, while a larger number had only one Member. As the object of the Assembly was to know the wants and wishes of the ryots and merchants, every taluk should be given two Members, irrespective of other considerations.

7. The rule placing a time-limit on the speakers should be removed, as the President had inherent powers to stop any Member from speaking.

8. The Kudiyans should be represented by the same number of Members as the Jenmies.

9. When a Member is elected by the voters, he should convene a meeting of the voters to settle the subjects to be brought forward at the Assembly.

10. In the case of people in possession of jenmom properties the present tax-limit of Rs. 50 worked hardship. The amount should be laid down as one-eighth or one-sixth of the existing rate.

11. The rule which requires that the residence of the Member should be in the taluk from which he is returned should be altered.

12. The period of Membership of the Assembly should be made three years.

13. It was doubtful whether the existing rules enabled the Assembly to fulfil the real object intended. For instance, a Town Improvement Committee Member should be compelled to represent the wants of the body he represented and not any other. Similarly, the trading Member should strictly confine himself to commercial or business matters and not to any general questions of public administration or finance. A rule should be enacted to secure that end.

14. The Administration Report should give particulars of disposal of subjects brought forward every year at the Assembly.

15. The Government should provide for the accommodation of Members during the Assembly session as in Mysore. Even here, it was done in some previous sessions of the Assembly. At present, the Members experienced much difficulty in securing decent quarters to stay.

16. It was desirable that the Members should meet together before the discussion of the subjects began, so as to avoid waste of time in the representation of the subjects. Some arrangement should be made for holding a common meeting.

17. A more convenient seat may be given to the Member when he was speaking at the Assembly.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly